Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-82. (cancelled)

83. (currently amended) An implantable cardioverter-defibrillator for subcutaneous positioning comprising:

a housing having a proximal housing segment including an end and a distal housing segment including an end, said housing segments being elongated and coupled to each other at their respective ends, wherein said distal housing segment has a top surface and a bottom surface, said top surface being tapered toward said bottom surface; and

an electrical circuit located within the housing, wherein the electrical circuit is electrically coupled to the housing.

84. (previously presented) The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 83, wherein said housing being adapted to be positioned between said third and twelfth rib of a patient.

85. (previously presented) The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 83 wherein said housing segments are hinged to each other.

86. (previously presented) The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 83 further comprising an electrode formed on said housing, said electrical circuit being connected to said electrode.

87. (previously presented) The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 86 wherein said electrode and said electrical circuit are disposed within said distal housing segment.

88. (previously presented) The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 86 wherein said electrode is disposed on said distal housing segment and said electrical circuit is disposed within said proximal housing segment.

89. (currently amended) ~~The implantable cardioverter defibrillator of claim 83 where~~ An implantable cardioverter-defibrillator for subcutaneous positioning comprising:

a housing having a proximal housing segment including an end and a distal housing segment including an end, said housing segments being elongated and coupled to each other at their respective ends and wherein said housing is curved to mimic the anatomical shape of patient's ribcage; and

an electrical circuit located within the housing, wherein the electrical circuit is electrically coupled to the housing.

90. (previously presented) The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 83 wherein said distal housing segment has a top surface and a bottom surface, said top and bottom surfaces being curved.

91. (cancelled)

92. (previously presented) The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 83 wherein said proximal housing segment has a top surface and a bottom surface, said top and bottom surfaces being curved.

93. (previously presented) The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 83, wherein said housing segments have curved top and bottom surfaces.

94. (previously presented) The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 83, wherein said distal housing segment has curved top and bottom surfaces and said proximal housing segment has planar top and bottom surfaces.

95. (previously presented) A cardioverter-defibrillator for subcutaneous implantation, the cardioverter-defibrillator comprising:

a housing having a length, a width and a depth, wherein the depth of the housing is less than approximately 15 millimeters, the housing further including a proximal segment and a distal segment, said segments having generally elongated shapes and placed in an end-to-end configuration and coupled to each other;

an electrical circuit disposed within the housing, wherein the electrical circuit can provide cardioversion-defibrillation and cardiac pacing for a patient's heart; and

an electrode located on the housing, wherein the electrode is electrically coupled to the electrical circuit.

96. (previously presented) The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 95, said housing being adapted to be positioned between said third and twelfth rib of a patient.

97. (previously presented) The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 95 wherein said housing segments are hinged to each other.

98. (currently amended) The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 95 where said housing is curved to mimic the anatomical shape ~~of patient's~~ of a patient's ribcage.

99. (previously presented) The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 95 wherein said distal segment has a top surface and a bottom surface, said top and bottom surfaces being curved.

100. (previously presented) The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 95 wherein said distal segment has a top surface and a bottom surface, said top surface being tapered toward said bottom surface.

101. (previously presented) The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 95 wherein said proximal segment has a top surface and a bottom surface, said top and bottom surfaces being curved.

102. (previously presented) The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 95, wherein said segments have curved top and bottom surfaces.

103. (previously presented) The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 95, wherein said distal segment has curved top and bottom surfaces and said proximal segment has planar top and bottom surfaces.

104. (previously presented) An implantable cardioverter-defibrillator for subcutaneous positioning between the third rib and the twelfth rib within a patient, the implantable cardioverter-defibrillator comprising:

a housing, wherein at least a portion of the housing is curved, said housing further comprising a first segment and a second segment, each segment having an insulating plate at an end thereof, and a conductive plate coupled to the insulating plate, wherein the conductive plate of the first segment is coupled to the conductive plate of the second segment to form a unitary implantable device;

an electrical circuit; and

at least one electrically conductive surface integrally positioned on at least one portion of the housing, wherein the at least one electrically conductive surface is coupled to the electrical circuit.

105. (previously presented) The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 104, wherein the housing comprises an electrically insulated material.

106. (previously presented) The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 104, wherein the housing is pliable.

107. (previously presented) The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 104, wherein the housing comprises a material that can be sterilized.

108. (previously presented) The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 104, wherein the housing comprises a ceramic material.

109. (previously presented) The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 108, wherein the ceramic material is selected from the group consisting essentially of zirconia, alumina, silicon nitride, silicon carbide, titanium carbide, tungsten carbide, titanium nitride, silicon-aluminum oxy-nitride (sialon), graphite, titanium di-boride, boron carbide, zirconia toughened alumina, and molybdenum disilicide.

110. (previously presented) The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 109, wherein the zirconia is selected from the group consisting essentially of stabilized zirconia, partially stabilized zirconia, tetragonal zirconia, yttria-stabilized zirconia, magnesia-stabilized zirconia, ceria-stabilized zirconia, and calcia-stabilized zirconia.

111. (previously presented) The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 104, wherein the housing comprises a mixture of ceramic materials and titanium.

112. (previously presented) The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 104 wherein at least a portion of the first segment is curved.

113. (previously presented) The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 104, further wherein at least a portion of the second segment is curved.

114. (previously presented) The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 104, wherein the curved portion of the housing comprises a circular arc.

115. (previously presented) The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 104, wherein the curved portion of the housing comprises an elliptical arc.

116. (previously presented) The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 104, wherein the curved portion of the housing comprises a nonsymmetrical arc.

117. (previously presented) The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 104, wherein the second segment comprises a circular arc.

118. (previously presented) The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 104, wherein the second segment comprises an elliptical arc.

119. (previously presented) The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 104, wherein the second segment comprises a nonsymmetrical arc.

120. (previously presented) The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 104, wherein the second segment of the housing is substantially straight.

121. (previously presented) The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 104, wherein the first segment of the housing is contiguous with the second segment of the housing.

122. (previously presented) The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 104, wherein a hinge couples the first segment of the housing to the second segment of the housing.

123. (New) An implantable cardioverter-defibrillator comprising:

a housing having a proximal housing segment including an end and a distal housing segment including an end, said housing segments being elongated and hingedly coupled to each other at their respective ends;

an electrical circuit located within the housing, wherein the electrical circuit is electrically coupled to the housing; and

an electrode formed on said housing, said electrical circuit being connected to said electrode.

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached replacement drawings include a change to Fig. 23B. In Figure 23B, previously omitted element 228 has been added.

Attachment: 11 sheets of Replacement Drawings